

President Biden's denial of inflation that his policies have created are leading the Nation straight into said recession.

Last week, June's Consumer Price Index score came out and revealed that inflation has soared 9.1 percent. That is right, the largest 12-month increase in over four decades. I kind of believe 9.1 percent might be a lowball number when it gets right down to kitchen-table issues that regular, everyday Americans have to deal with. So even though inflation is up by 9.1 percent, the American people are paying far more for just about everything, such as gas, approximately 44 percent; airline tickets, 33 percent; used cars, 23 percent; hotels, 23 percent; suits, 22 percent; bacon, 18 percent; oranges, 17 percent; tires, 16 percent; furniture, 15 percent; milk, 15 percent; coffee, 14 percent; deliveries, 14 percent; bread, 14 percent; baby food—if you can find it—13 percent; soup, 13 percent; cereal, 12 percent; eggs, 10 percent; dry cleaning, 10 percent; then the rents on their homes and apartments and such, averaging about 30 percent.

And we saw that a little over a year and a half ago, lumber had gone up quadruple. It is coming back, but it is still double of 2 years ago for lumber in order to build homes and build anything else.

So where are we at? These outrageous prices are crushing the American Dream.

Last July, the President claimed that inflation was only transitory; that if we continued down this administration's path, then prices would go down again.

Certainly. Right.

Obviously, that was false.

Now it is the blame game: Putin. The war in Ukraine. Gas stations. Or Republicans. We are not the ones doing the big spending.

Inflation is indeed a tax on all Americans. It is caused by Biden and the House Democrats' out-of-control spending—trillions without accountability.

Small businesses can't afford the increase of input costs across the board. Farmers' fertilizer and all the other things that you would use to grow something, build something, manufacture something, are driven at their core by high energy costs. That is at the base of everything, energy costs.

So workers are effectively—because of all these costs—really seeing their wages cut. Even though they have seen some increases on paper, the higher costs of doing everything is hurting low- and middle-income Americans badly.

What I hear coming out of Sacramento and out of the White House doesn't seem to be helping. It seems to be more focused on a handful of agenda items. The religion of climate change—which, by the way, I will remind you again, carbon dioxide is only 0.04 percent of our atmosphere.

So we have to get back to business and rely on Americans to do business

and produce things domestically. Let's not import all this stuff from China. We don't need their stuff. We can make it here. We can make it efficiently. We can make it more ecologically sound with our energy than it can be done anywhere else in the world.

Madam Speaker, let's put Americans back to work and let's get the government off their backs and out of their wallets.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Holy God, call us into Your presence this day, that we, with full abandon, would run into Your loving embrace and receive the plenteous gifts You desire to lavish upon us.

What an image. Your love is so welcoming. Your concern for our welfare so strong, and Your generosity overwhelming. We are humbled by Your grace.

Held in Your everlasting arms, may we find the courage to ask for Your wisdom and guidance, that we would receive; to seek to discern what is good and right, that we may find; and to knock on doors barricaded by doubt and despair, that even these would be opened to us.

O God, You are the source of our every hope, the answer for all we seek, and the treasure we hope to be opened to us. In this knowledge, may our joy be complete.

In Your loving name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. PLASKETT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

JOB EXPANSION

(Ms. PLASKETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, this June, the private sector added 372,000 jobs to the economy, surpassing pre-pandemic levels.

I would recognize the leadership of the Biden administration and my Democratic colleagues in Congress for taking swift action to strengthen the economy through robust job expansion.

Since President Biden took office, the economy has added over 9 million jobs, and the unemployment rate has decreased from 6.4 percent to 3.6 percent after losing 3 million jobs during the pandemic.

The price of oil is decreasing due to the leadership of President Biden. Despite high inflation rates, today, we are seeing the strongest economy for American workers in decades. People are receiving higher wages, increased benefits, and better jobs overall.

House Democrats will keep working to develop the labor market, underpin economic progress, and prioritize expanding accessible and inclusive employment opportunities for American people, because that is who we care about.

RECOGNIZING TOM LANIER

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a very soothing, informed, and familiar voice in the High Country in North Carolina: Tom Lanier.

On July 23, Tom will be celebrating his 50th year on the air at WATA in Boone—a monumental milestone.

In both Boone and surrounding areas, he is highly regarded as a true staple as he continues his early morning radio program without fanfare. With half a century of serving the High Country, you would be hard-pressed to find someone who does not know of Tom and his commitment to keeping people informed.

Tom, the service you continue to provide to our community is invaluable, and it is a testament to the caliber of person you are.

Congratulations, and here is to many more years on the air.

CELEBRATING 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF NEWSRADIO 600 WMT

(Mrs. HINSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. HINSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Newsradio 600 WMT on the upcoming 100th anniversary of the station being on the air.